

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

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P R 181849Z MAR 74  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL DURBAN  
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN  
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SF, US

SUBJECT:REPORTED RACIAL INCIDENT INVOLVING USIA OFFICER

1. WASHINGTON POST MARCH 18 CARRIED FOLLOWING PETER YOUNGHUSBAND BY-LINE STORY ENTITLED "U.S. AIDE TASTES APARTHEID":

"CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA MARCH 17 - A BLACK EMPLOYEE OF THE U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY AND HIS WIFE ENCOUNTERED THE HARSH REALITY OF SOUTH AFRICA'S APARTHEID LAWS FRIDAY WHEN THEY WERE TOLD TO LEAVE A DURBAN NIGHT CLUB.

"RICHARD SAUNDERS AND HIS WIFE EMILY, WHO APPARENTLY WERE MISTAKEN FOR LOCAL BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS, WERE TOLD THAT THE CLUB CATERS ONLY TO WHITES.

"WHEN SAUNDERS PROTESTED THE INCIDENT, POINTING OUT TO THE MANAGER THAT HE IS A U.S. FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, THE MANAGER SAID SAUNDERS AND HIS WIFE WOULD BE PERMITTED TO REMAIN IN THE CLUB AND DINE, BUT THEY WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED  
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TO DANCE.

"SAUNDERS, WHO HAD BEEN IN AFRICA FOR THREE WEEKS, SAID HE REGARDED THE ACTION AS "IDIOTIC."

"PEOPLE HAD BEEN SO DARNED NICE TO US IN JOHANNESBURG AND CAPE TOWN THAT I FORGOT WHAT'S UNDER THE SURFACE," HE SAID, "BUT THIS HAS BROUGHT ME DOWN TO EARTH."

"A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN IN WASHINGTON SAID TODAY HE WAS NOT AWARE OF THE INCIDENT, BUT HE SAID, "WE ASSUME THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS WORK MIGHTY HARD TO PREVENT SUCH THINGS FROM HAPPENING." HE DESCRIBED SAUNDERS' EXPULSION FROM THE NIGHT CLUB AS "HIGHLY UNUSUAL," AND SAID HE COULD NOT RECALL A SIMILAR INCIDENT INVOLVING A BLACK U.S. FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER.

"THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE "SYSTEM" IN SOUTH AFRICA IS SET UP TO ACCOMMODATE TRAVELING NONWHITES, SUCH AS SAUNDERS. "THE PROBLEM COMES WHEN THEY GET OFF THE BEATEN TRACK" AND ARE MISTAKEN FOR SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS.

"SAUNDERS IS THE INTERNATIONAL EDITOR OF TOPIC, A MAGAZINE PUBLISHED FOR DISTRIBUTION IN AFRICA BY THE USIA. HE IS ALSO A PHOTOGRAPHER, AND HIS CURRENT TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA IS TO EXHIBIT HIS COLLECTION OF PHOTOS TAKEN IN AFRICA.

"SAUNDERS AND HIS WIFE WERE STAYING AT THE BLUE WATERS HOTEL IN DURBAN, A PRESTIGIOUS ESTABLISHMENT WHICH HAS GOVERNMENT PERMISSION TO ACCEPT NONWHITE FOREIGN GUESTS.

"THE HOTEL NIGHT CLUB DID NOT RECOGNIZE SAUNDERS, HOWEVER, AND WHEN HE, HIS WIFE, THREE WHITE JOURNALISTS AND MRS. LORETTA VAN SCHALWYK, THE USIA PRESS OFFICER IN DURBAN, ENTERED THE CLUB, THEY WERE TOLD TO LEAVE.

"THE HOTEL MANAGER, ROGER OLDHAM, SAID TODAY THAT HIS HOTEL HAS PERMISSION TO ACCOMMODATE AFRICANS AND INDIANS AND THEY MAY EAT IN THE MAIN DINING ROOM, BUT THAT THEY MAY ONLY ENTER THE NIGHT CLUB WHEN THEY HAVE WRITTEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPROVAL FROM THE DURBAN CHIEF MAGISTRATE.

"OLDHAM SAID THAT WITH THIS PERMISSION THEY MAY HAVE LIQUOR AND EAT IN THE NIGHT CLUB, BUT THEY MAY NOT DANCE."

2. AF HAS PROVIDED FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE FOR MARCH 18 NOON BRIEFING:

"QUESTION: CAN YOU COMMENT ON THE REPORTED INCIDENT IN SOUTH AFRICA INVOLVING THE EXPULSION OF A BLACK USIA STAFF OFFICER FROM A NIGHT CLUB IN DURBAN?

"ANSWER: ONLY A SINGLE PRESS REPORT OF THIS INCIDENT HAS SO FAR REACHED THE DEPARTMENT. WE HAVE NOT YET HAD AN OFFICIAL REPORT FROM OUR EMBASSY IN SOUTH AFRICA, SO I AM NOT ABLE TO COMMENT SPECIFICALLY ON THIS INCIDENT.

"I CAN SAY, HOWEVER, THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE REPORTED INCIDENT INVOLVING MR. AND MRS. RICHARD SAUNDERS AND WE ARE MAKING INQUIRIES.

"GENERALLY SPEAKING, WE EXPECT THAT ALL OUR FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES WILL BE TREATED IN A NON-DISCRIMINATORY MANNER, WHETHER THEY ARE PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED TO SOUTH AFRICA OR ARE THERE ON TEMPORARY DUTY, AS WAS MR. SAUNDERS."

3. PLEASE REPORT AND GIVE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS YOU BELIEVE ARE APPROPRIATE.

4. PRETORIA 1085 ARRIVED JUST PRIOR TO PRESS BRIEFING AND INFORMATION CONTAINED PARA 7 RELAYED FOR INCLUSION ALONG WITH GUIDANCE PROVIDED EARLIER. KISSINGER

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